



Washington 2012 Annual Performance Report Summary

Lead Agency: Department of Early Learning

Participating State Agencies: Department of Health, Department of Social and Health Services, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, University of Washington, Thrive by Five, Washington, Child Care Aware of Washington.

Amount of Grant: \$60,000,000

Focused Investment Areas Addressed:

- (C)(1) Developing and using statewide, high-quality Early Learning and Development Standards.
- (C)(4) Engaging and supporting families.
- (D)(1) Developing a Workforce Knowledge and Competency Framework and a progression of credentials
- (E)(1) Understanding the status of children's learning and development at kindergarten entry.

Highlights of 2012 Accomplishments:

Project 1: Grant Management

The Washington State Department of Early Learning (DEL) has built the internal infrastructure and systems to support the ongoing management of the RTT-ELC.

Key Accomplishments

- DEL's Information Technology Division has completed several development projects, providing new and robust integrated systems functionality to meet the business needs of the RTT-ELC grant and full implementation of Early Achievers, Washington's Tiered Quality Rating and Improvement System (TQRIS).
- Child Care Aware of Washington (CCA-WA) launched a new tracking system to track activities related to enrolling Early Achievers participants and providing support to participants as they complete prerequisite steps and prepare for their rating, including outreach, marketing, and technical assistance to child care providers.
- DEL finalized performance-based contracts for all subrecipients and scopes of work.

Project 2: TQRIS Expansion

Early Achievers launched on July 1, 2012. In the first six months of implementation, Early Achievers has enrolled 913 early learning programs around the state.

Key Accomplishments

- All CCA-WA regions met or exceeded their 2012 RTT-ELC enrollment targets. As of December 31, 2012, 415 family home child care providers and 317 child care centers have enrolled, with a capacity to serve 20,106 children.
- Nine Head Start and Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (state funded preschool referred to as “ECEAP”) grantees with 181 sites enrolled in a pilot to determine how state and federal pre-K programs will participate in Early Achievers. These programs serve 11,189 children, 210% of the 2012 target for reaching children in these programs.

Project 3: TQRIS Infrastructure

The infrastructure for Early Achievers has been significantly enhanced in Year 1 of the grant.

Key Accomplishments

- Professional Training Series launched, comprising six required trainings for Level 2 participants of Early Achievers including training on the Washington State Early Learning and Development Guidelines and Strengthening Families.
- The University of Washington began a pre/post study on the Early Achievers levels, documenting the level of quality in 41 preschool classrooms and the pre/post gains in children's learning, development, and school readiness.
- CCA-WA has strengthened its capacity to provide Technical Assistance and Training in each of the 7 regions of the state. As of December 31, 2012, Regional Coordinators have been hired in 6 regions, while 43 Technical Assistance Specialists and 10 coaches have been hired by CCA-WA and trained by the University of Washington to support facility-level quality improvement plans.
- Implementation of the Head Start/ECEAP pilot to inform a reciprocity agreement for participation in Early Achievers.

Project 4: WaKIDS- Kindergarten Readiness

WaKIDS reached 23% of kindergarteners, implementing the three elements of the kindergarten transition: 1) a whole child assessment using Teaching Strategies (TS) GOLD, 2) a family connection between teachers and parents, and 3) an Early Learning Collaboration between schools, districts, and regional levels, which includes early learning providers, kindergarten teachers and school principals. Washington is on track to provide state-funded full day kindergarten across the state in the 2017-18 school year.

Key Accomplishments

- During the 2012-13 school year, 1,003 teachers in 102 districts participated in WaKIDS (308 schools with 21,811 incoming kindergarteners), reaching 82% of our goals.
- Results from the fall 2012 administration of TS GOLD became available to teachers, principals, and school district administrators through the TS GOLD website. Results were made available to the public in January 2013.

Project 5: Professional Development Incentives**Key Accomplishments**

- A new trainer approval process was launched to ensure alignment and quality of community-based training and higher education coursework with the Workforce

Knowledge and Competency Framework; the process ensures that all trainings are grounded in the State's Core Competencies and Early Learning Guidelines.

- DEL and the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, created statewide "stackable certificates" in early childhood education, including consistent course numbers, course descriptions, and learning objectives aligned with Core Competencies.
- Seven colleges now offer Opportunity Grants to low-income professionals who work in Early Achievers programs. Washington Scholarships has expanded and is aligned to support professionals employed in Early Achievers programs.
- Over 17,500 early learning professionals registered in MERIT, the state's professional development registry.